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Chicopee Register

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Chicopee sees Christmas in July

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

The holiday season came early for several dozen Chicopee seniors on the afternoon of July 29. Outside of the River-Mills Center, the Council on Aging staff hosted "Christmas in July."

The jolly afternoon was a festive edition of the COA's curbside-to-go meals program and lasted from 1:30 to 3 p.m. last Thursday. With the exterior of the senior center decorated as if it were December, Mayor John Vieau greeted arriving seniors at a safe distance.

"There was not one 'bah, humbug' today. A lot of them didn't know about this so they were taken by surprise," said Vieau. "This staff has done a great job being here. Dozens of people have said that it's not about lunch; it's about seeing the staff, who they've become very close to. They really are appreciative of what the senior center is doing for them."

Program Coordinator Casey Conroy had heard of "Christmas in July" in the past and was inspired to bring the initiative to Chicopee. During a summer in which positivity is priceless, Conroy went to great lengths to create a special day for members of the city's eldest population.

"I wanted to decorate the outside of the building for them to see something cheerful," said Conroy. "It's nice to know that we're still having a positive impact on people even though we're not open to come in and do programming. They know that we're here, and we'll do whatever we can to make sure that they're safe and get a hot meal."

COA Executive Director Sherry Manyak echoed Conroy's sentiment, stating that "we're just trying to do something fun and raise people's spirits." For the COA staff, seeing the seniors enjoy themselves offers an equally uplifting sensation.

"It's a great feeling; it gives us a sense that we're accomplishing something and making a difference in their lives, and that's what they've been saying; that we make them feel special, and that's what we're trying to do," she said.

On a busy afternoon, Vieau made time to interact with Chicopee's seniors. The

See CHRISTMAS page 8

Sophia Meade, a Summer Café Asst., organizes meals during the COA's "Christmas in July" initiative on July 29.
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

COMMUNITY

Police department's C3 Unit takes new approach

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

The world has changed greatly since the Chicopee Police Department launched its C3 Unit on Jan.15, but the unit itself may be changing the way policing is done in Chicopee.

The C3 Unit led by Sgt. Tommy Gazda is a three-man squad that is based out of the C3 substation at 35 Center St. Rather than responding to calls, the unit patrols Chicopee Center in an effort to connect with residents and foster a better relationship between locals and the department.

Left to right are Police Officer John Slachetka, Police Officer Keith Hevey and Police Sgt. Tommy Gazda, who make up the C3 Unit, which was begun in January. It is a community policing unit focused on Chicopee Center. *TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

"We want to be able to talk to people who might not normally talk to the police; to build their trust through engagements rather than by responding to calls. We want to meet them on a face-to-face basis instead of responding as a police officer," said Gazda, a 23-year veteran of the CPD.

The true purpose of the C3 Unit is to interact with community members in the center of the city on a daily basis, addressing issues that could be as simple as code violations or as complex as drug and gang activity. Through its use of walking beats and bike patrols, the unit effectively covers the entirety of Chicopee Center.

Prior to the pandemic, the unit held a weekly community meeting at its headquarters, which would draw approximately 20 residents to each session. The conversations have continued over the phone during the past four months.

"Ultimately, our goal for the meetings is to find out information; to reduce criminal activity in the area," said Gazda. "We hope to create a safe and secure environment in downtown Chicopee, and promote and foster community relationships with local leaders, residents and organizations in in Chicopee Center."

Beyond the discussions, the unit is making a difference through its actions. Gazda emphasized the unit's focus on and commitment to aiding the West End's homeless population.

"We are giving them cleaning supplies, sanitation

See POLICE page 11

COMMUNITY

Boys & Girls Club reopens

See Page 2

POLITICS

Kennedy visits western Mass.

See Page 3

EDUCATION

School plans set

See Page 3

SPORTS

TMC votes to keep wrestling tournament

See Page 9

INDEX

Opinion	4-5
Public Notices	12-13
Classifieds	14-15
Faces and Places	15

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Boys & Girls Club reopens

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Just like that the Club is back. On July 30, the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee opened its doors for the first time since March. A lively group of 40 children and 10 teenagers have breathed new life back into the Meadow Street facility that sat quietly for nearly 20 weeks.

"Over the past four months, the club has been closed to members, but all staff has stayed on the payroll. All of us are so excited to see the club members again in person. They influence many of us as on a daily basis, and we have missed their laughter and personality in the building," said Lynn Morrissette, marketing and development director.

Typically, the club's summer program would draw upwards of 100 members each day. The children and teens who were welcomed back last week were accepted on a "first come, first served basis," said Morrissette.

Executive Director Jason Reed was thrilled to resume the in-person operation and noted countless hours of tireless work went into the preparation process. He credited his staff for remaining dedicated to the club's mission during a turbulent spring and early summer.

"This has been an unprecedented time for everyone, our staff included," said Reed. "While we worked diligently to adjust to this new normal and deliver on our mission as thoroughly as possible, we all had to deal with the pandemic on a personal level as well. In a profession that is not designed for remote work, I am incredibly proud of how our staff adapted, and rose to the challenge."

During the closure, the club created a Virtual Programs Committee and a new YouTube channel, the "Cyber Clubhouse," to keep members connected to the youth development professionals the club employs. With COVID-19 still a legitimate threat, the club was compelled to establish a new set of safety guidelines.

"Some of the new protocols and safety measures that have been implemented are all staff must wear masks throughout the day, handwashing and sanitizing are to be done multiple times a day for staff and members, each group of members must stay together throughout the day in the same area and use their own supplies and [meals] are provided in the groups' program spaces to limit gathering and movement around the building," said Morrissette.

The club has also hired a professional cleaning company to sanitize the facility every evening. To better ensure the safety of all members and staff in the building, many commonplace recreational activities will be altered or temporarily prohibited altogether.

"Activities will be planned to allow for individual participation and limit any large group activities. Outdoor activities are encouraged, and our field and spray park will be getting a lot of attention. But close contact activities like a basketball game will not be allowed yet," said Morrissette.

After shuttering its doors for four months, the Boys & Girls Club has reopened its doors to a limited number of members.

During a March 7 Battle of the Badges fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club, the club's Marketing & Development Director Lynn Morrissette poses with the Chicopee Police Department's mascot and Jason Reed, executive director of the Club.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Reed took the time to thank the community contributors who helped enable the club to survive its closure. He offered kind words to all those who pitched in to the club's return.

"The Club has been fortunate to receive financial support from the Community Foundation, Peabody Foundation and others to help offset some of the reopening costs," said Reed. "We have invested in individual work stations for members, touchless faucets and flushers for our restroom facilities, and individual water coolers for each program space. Additionally, we needed to invest in individual supplies for members, as items cannot be shared."

More information can be found on the club's website at bgcchicopee.org.

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Left, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III visited the Holyoke Community Health Center on Aug. 3 as well as Interstate Towing as part of his tour across the state. Right, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III visited Interstate Towing Inc. in Chicopee on Aug. 3 as part of his tour across the state as he challenges U.S. Sen. Ed Markey for his Senate seat.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Kennedy makes campaign swing through Chicopee, Holyoke

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

With a family name to live up to and social justice to achieve, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III is traveling the state as he campaigns to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. Ed Markey. On the afternoon of Aug. 4, Kennedy dropped in on the city of Chicopee.

"We went around western Massachusetts today and had a great visit at Interstate Towing," said Kennedy, who spoke on an array of subjects during his appearance at the Westover Road business.

Kennedy, 39, has served Massachusetts' 4th Congressional District as a U.S. representative since 2013. Kennedy's pursuit of a Senate seat brought him to the western side of the state on Monday and, in the process, broadened his horizons.

"We're running around the state getting feedback; talking about how we recover from COVID-19 and most importantly what small businesses are saying, what families need and what communities need to make sure that we are never so vulnerable to a crisis like this again," said Kennedy.

Declaring that "good intentions" alone will not bring the country relief, Kennedy emphasized the importance of establishing sound policies that are based off of community input. To accomplish this, Kennedy has embarked on a 29-day journey across the commonwealth.

"You're not going to have an idea of what a community's needs are if you're not there or present; if you're not asking people what they're feeling, what they're seeing and how they can help. That's what we're continuing to do today in Chicopee," said Kennedy.

Kennedy is more than three decades younger than his opponent, an advantage he believes will be critical to any success he might have in the upcoming election. His is certain that the U.S. Senate is in dire need of a newer perspective.

"We believe that we're capable of so much more and so much better and in order to get there we need change," he said. "That change is not going to come with the same old people and the same old ideas and the same old politicians that have been doing this for the last 50 years. It's going to come by folks who are willing to roll up their sleeves and dive in to fight for the community and our families as hard as our families are fighting for each other."

Kennedy is the grandson of former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the son of former U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy II. His family has been a mainstay in American politics for well over a century, but Kennedy pledged that he brings his own unique strengths to the table.

"Look, I'm proud of the contributions that my family has made, and they have over their relative terms of service, tried to push our country to be a stronger, fairer and a more equitable place," said Kennedy. "I'm trying to do that as well, but without question, it's my name on the ballot. It's not my father, my grandfather or any of his brothers. This is on me. All that I ask for is a chance to get evaluated fairly and go out there and earn it."

School year a certainty, shape it will take remains unknown

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

For Chicopee students, the 2020-2021 school year is all but certain to occur. How exactly it will take shape, however, remains anyone's guess.

Chicopee Public Schools successfully met its July 31 deadline to submit three reopening models to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The district outlined three intricate plans, all of which were recently discussed by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability Matthew Francis.

"The three plans consisted of a full remote plan, a hybrid plan and then a face-to-face plan. The School Committee has received all three of those plans, and the Superintendent [Lynn Clark] has sent all three of those plans to all faculty and staff within Chicopee late last week. Everybody's seen it," said Francis.

In late April, the district convened the Reopening Task Force to create multiple models that the city could potentially adopt entering the upcoming school year.

The committee consisted of approximately 10 individuals, including Francis, a representative of the Maintenance Department, a representative of the Department of Food Services and all of the building principals.

Multiple surveys were also sent out to teachers, parents and members of the student body to collect their opinions on the failures and success of the virtual learning period that began on March 16 and concluded in June. The task force leaned on the feedback when crafting the models it submitted to DESE.

Francis described the full-remote plan; if chosen, he noted that it will be much different than the remote learning that occurred from March to June.

"The full remote, according to DESE, has to be a lot more rigorous than what happened in the spring where we had to pivot very quickly from in-person to a remote platform at the drop of a hat," said Francis.

Matthew Francis

Under the full remote model, students will be engaged in instruction five days a week for the equal amount of time that school would be in session. Under the plan, special education, ELL, homeless, foster care and economically disadvantaged students will still learn in a building setting.

"Our full remote plan for elementary starts at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. That is a combination of live lessons from the teacher along with pre-recorded lessons as well. There's also a scheduled lunch break in the middle of the day," said Francis.

Middle and high school students would begin their online learning at 8 a.m., have lunch at 12:30 p.m. and continue schooling until 2:30 p.m. Students would follow a seven-period schedule each day and still engage in classes such as Art and Physical Education.

The hybrid model would split students into three different cohorts. Cohort C would consist entirely of the aforementioned high-needs students, who would attend class in a building setting each day.

"Cohort A and Cohort B are the student populations split in half minus the high-needs group. Cohort A would be in-person Monday and Tuesday, and Cohort B would be in-person at school Thursday and Friday. The average class size would be 12," said Francis, adding that schooling would continue online for students on days they are not in a building setting.

If selected, the face-to-face model would be ushered in three two-week phases, after which a feasibility study would occur. DESE cut the mandated amount of "contact days" from 180 to 170 so the first phase would not begin until Sept. 15.

"Our first phase in consists of grades one, two, six and nine in a two-week phase in; average class size is 12. After the second week of that phase, we phase in the next group of students and two weeks later we phase in our last group of students," said Francis.

Students in grades five, eight, 11 and 12 have been selected to be phased in last and would not begin in-person learning until late October. They will nonetheless be required to participate in online learning until the designated return date arrives.

Regardless of which plan is set in motion, parents will be able to keep their children home during the 2020-2021 school year, opting instead for a full schedule of remote learning. A high percentage of Chicopee students would likely take advantage of the option.

"Our survey results are showing that roughly 26 percent of the student body is electing to start the year in a full remote platform. Even if we're in a hybrid or a face-to-face, we'll have a certain percentage of students that are working remotely from home," said Francis.

The 10 days next month that were freed up by DESE's decision to shorten the school year will be used for professional development for all teachers and staff members. Sessions are to focus on items ranging from safety protocols and academics to social equity.

Francis and his colleagues have created a 42-page comprehensive outline that addresses a number of pertinent safety issues. On Aug. 5, the School Committee will vote to adapt or reject the district's plan; regardless of the outcome, Francis is proud of the shared effort that's been exerted over the past several months.

"It's a very daunting task, and I'm extremely proud of the departments within the district, who want to make sure that have made sure that we have safe reopening for everybody; students, staff and teachers," he said.

"Is it going to be perfect? No, but it's the first time that anybody's had to work with a pandemic in order to bring education. I can be very proud that Chicopee Public Schools is going to provide excellent instructional model for every student in every mode; hybrid, remote or face-to-face," finished Francis.

The entire city will be watching how the schools reopen. Mayor John Vieau explained that the outcome of a potential reopening will have widespread implications.

"What happens with schools is a domino effect for so many people, and people don't think that far out. Where do the teacher's kids go if she has to go back to school and the kids can't go? Where do they go if schools go completely remote, and what happens to all those other employees? What happens to the lunch program?"

"All of these things are interrelated in some way, which makes it very complicated. To go through all of those what if scenarios can drive you crazy so the intent is to, as these things come forward, our plans will be reviewed and decisions will be made by the School Committee."

Lesser files bill to review COVID-19 response

BOSTON – State Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) and Rep. Jon Santiago (D-Boston) recently filed "An Act establishing the Commission of Inquiry on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Response to and Recovery from the COVID-19 Crisis." The legislation would task a commission with reviewing the state's response to the novel coronavirus outbreak and make recommendations on how Massachusetts can better prepare in the future.

Lesser serves as Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies as well as a member of the Senate's COVID-19 task force. Santiago is a member of the Joint Committee on Public Health as well as an emergency room physician at Boston Medical Center.

"As we gain more insight into the spread of the Coronavirus outbreak and its impacts on Massachusetts, it is vital that we establish a dedicated nonpartisan commission to evaluate the response to the crisis and ensure future preparedness," Lesser said. "The unprecedented nature of COVID-19 has upended our way of life and has revealed pre-existing inequities in our system that needs to be evaluated and improved upon, especially as the threat of resurgence lingers."

The seven-member Commission must have expertise in professions such as economics; labor and workforce development; business and finance; public health; medicine, including epidemiology; health care; civil rights; law and governmental service; and emergency preparedness. The Commission must be nonpartisan and cannot include a current elected official, an employee of state or local government, a registered lobbyist, or an employee of a trade association or special interest group. The chair of the Commission will be appointed by a majority vote of the members. The Commission will be required to hold public hearings and be given subpoena power to compel witnesses and produce documents during their investigation.

The legislation requires the Commission to file a report of its findings, analysis and recommendations six months after enactment and requires the Commission to convene its first meeting no more than 45 days following the enactment of the legislation.

Virtual run steps off in support of children

SPRINGFIELD – At a time when many people are seeking fun, new ways to stay in touch with friends and family and stay active, the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation announced its first ever Dunkin' JOY Run.

The virtual program steps off Saturday, Aug. 1 and invites Dunkin' fans across Western Massachusetts to run or walk throughout the month of August. All funds raised for the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation through the Dunkin' JOY Run will be directed to health and hunger organizations supporting children in underserved communities.

Runners and walkers can register to participate in the Dunkin' JOY Run at www.bringjoy.org. Participants who register at the Dunkin' Runner level will receive a Dunkin' JOY Run T-shirt, as well as the opportunity to see their picture displayed on one of Dunkin's hometown billboards in Boston this year. All registrants will receive digital photo filters and gifs so they can share their progress on social media during the month.

Dunkin' JOY Run participants can fundraise to support the Foundation and receive incentives for their fundraising achievements, with no minimum fundraising requirement to participate. Participants can create a personal fundraising page and fundraise as individuals, join a team, or start a team. As they hit fundraising levels, participants will become eligible to receive Dunkin' shoelaces, hats, coffee mugs and sweatshirts – with the top fundraising individual receiving free coffee for a year donated by Dunkin'.

"While Western Mass. runs on Dunkin', this virtual race is a fun way to keep our community runnin' for a good cause," said Dunkin' franchise owner Peter Martins. "This year has been unlike any other and has only strengthened our commitment to the communities and families we serve. We're looking forward to getting out there and running to raise funds for health and hunger relief for children in underserved communities."

To learn more about the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, and find additional details about the Dunkin' JOY Run, visit www.bringjoy.org.

Governor issues new travel order for residents, visitors

BOSTON – Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued a new order mandating all travelers from coronavirus hot spots entering the commonwealth to fill out a Massachusetts travel form and quarantine for 14 days. The order took effect Saturday, Aug. 1.

All travelers entering the commonwealth will be required to comply with a new travel order unless they are coming from a low risk COVID-19 state or are able to produce a negative test result no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts. Other exemptions include people passing through the state, those commuting across state lines for work, people traveling to Massachusetts for medical treatment, people complying with military orders, or those traveling to work in federally designated critical infrastructure sectors (essential services).

The travel order and other information is available at www.mass.gov/MAtraveler.

Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive their negative test results. Failure to comply may result in a $500 fine per day.

Based on current public health data, those lower risk states include New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Hawaii. The list of lower risk states is subject to change based on public health data and states may be added or taken off the list at any time.

Prior to travel, people should visit www.mass.gov/MAtraveler to fill out the "Massachusetts Travel Form" or text "MATraveler" to 888-777.

As kids prepare to return to college this fall, what's safe, what's not?

SPRINGFIELD – It's a difficult decision to make and there isn't much time left.

Should my son or daughter head off to college this fall with the coronavirus pandemic still prevalent in communities everywhere?

Some colleges will only be offering online classes, but others are welcoming freshmen and other students to a campus which should look much different than in the past so as to protect the student body and staff.

One thing is for sure, college environments are high on social contacts and large gatherings are prime for the spread of COVID-19.

What about classrooms, dorms, and dining halls at college?

Dr. Armando Paez, chief, Infectious Disease Division at Baystate Medical Center answers these questions and more.

Q: What questions should parents/students be asking their college about safety before returning to the classroom?

A: It is important to ask your college about the policies and procedures that they will implement to promote safe behaviors throughout the college environment, as well as their plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For example, you should ask about the college's policies on students violating preventative measures, such as not wearing face coverings or practicing social distancing. Other questions include: What are the guidelines for teachers and students when calling in sick for class, so that there is no fear of reprisal for not coming to class? How is the cafeteria set up to encourage physical distancing? What modifications have been made in the cleaning and disinfecting procedures of classrooms, toilets and common places on campus.

Q: What are the biggest risks for students heading off to college?

A: The biggest risk is actually becoming infected with COVID-19 while at college, setting off an outbreak in the dormitories and at home and local communities when leaving campus. It is already known that young individuals can get infected, spread the virus, and they can also become severely ill from COVID-19. The risk increases significantly when students do not follow preventative measures, such as maintaining physical distancing.

Q: What would you advise students about their social life at college?

A: It is best at this time to avoid large gathering, especially indoors, including bars. It is important to keep informed of new guidelines and recommendations from the college, state and public health organizations to protect you.

Q: What considerations should there be if you are sharing a dorm room with someone?

A: In light of what we know about COVID-19 transmission, the current dormitory setup will need to be modified for safety. Most dormitories will likely not be operating at full capacity, and single rooms may be available. However, for those sharing rooms, it is important to follow recommended preventative measures including face coverings, frequent handwashing, regular disinfection of shared spaces and commonly touched objects and surfaces. If the student or roommate feels sick, the dormitory administration should be notified immediately and the protocol for isolation and COVID-19 testing, if suspected, should be followed.

Q: What items should parents consider sending their children off to college with that they might not normally think of?

A: Hand sanitizers and disinfectants approved or known to deactivate SARSCoV2, face covering or masks and a thermometer.

Q: What about eating in the college dining hall?

A: If eating in the college dining hall can be avoided, I would recommend you eat elsewhere, especially if necessary precautions have not been taken. Any congregation of individuals, such as in a dining hall, always poses a risk of COVID-19 transmission if just one individual is infected. However, most college dining halls, much like dormitories, likely will be modified in such a way that it will be reasonably safe for students to dine in with physical distancing at least six feet apart as much as possible. Other measures that should be adopted include limiting the number of individuals per table, assigning students specified times to come to the dining hall, use of disposable items, and more "grab-and-go options."

Q: What would you advise a college student with comorbidities, such as diabetes or pulmonary problems, to do?

A: If online learning is an option, this will be the best alternative for someone with comorbidities. If this is not an option, choose activities at the college that require little physical interaction or gathering. Also, avoid being near individuals who do not have face coverings. I cannot overemphasize strictly following preventative measures, such as frequent handwashing, physical distancing, face coverings and more. If you feel sick or think you may have COVID-19, contact your health care provider within 24 hours and follow the school's recommendations for those who think they might be sick with COVID-19.

Q: Is living in a fraternity or sorority safe?

A: Outbreaks of COVID-19 have been reported in fraternities and similar off-campus quarters. Similar to dormitories, these living quarters should have modifications, rules and regulations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Fraternity and sorority parties have been linked to COVID-19 outbreaks and should be avoided.

Q: Can students safely participate in college sports?

A: Yes, I think students can play sports safely following some guidelines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website – cdc.gov – has posted guidelines for playing sports. A player who feels sick or believes they may have COVID-19, should not play and alert their coach. In addition to frequent handwashing, there should not be any sharing of equipment. Handshakes, high fives or fist bumps are discouraged. The risk of contracting COVID-19 increases depending on the physical closeness of the sport, and competitions that involve teams from different geographic areas. Coaches and spectators should wear face coverings, and coaches must decide if players need to wear them.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org

State allocates $50 million for education relief

BOSTON- The Baker-Polito Administration announced today it will allocate more than $50 million in federal CARES Act funds to benefit education in elementary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities. The funding from the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund will improve early literacy, expand remote learning opportunities, and cover costs associated with reopening certain schools and colleges, as well as boost financial aid for college students in greater need of financial assistance.

As part of the federal CARES Act, governors in each state were granted a share of discretionary dollars to ensure continuity of educational services during the COVID-19 crisis. The Baker-Polito Administration previously allocated nearly $1 billion in federal funds to help municipalities, school districts, and colleges and universities in the Commonwealth address COVID-related expenses.

The funding announced today will support the following initiatives:

• Up to $10 million for early literacy programs that provide extra help to students through grade 3, aimed at remediating learning loss children may have experienced since schools closed in March, as well as accelerate reading skills of children in high-need communities;

• Up to $7.5 million to expand access to online courses, including advanced placement, early college or dual enrollment courses;

• Up to $25 million to cover COVID-related expenses associated with reopening colleges and universities, as well as certain non-public elementary and secondary schools. Funds will be allocated based on the number and percentage of low-income students these schools enroll;

• Up to $2.5 million in financial aid for low-income college students attending public colleges to ensure they can cover emergency expenses to continue their education;

• And up to $5 million set aside in an emergency reserve fund.

"Our administration is committed to supporting every student in our schools as districts and universities prepare for the start of the school year," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "This $50 million investment represents flexible funding that can be used for a variety of critical resources for schools and colleges as they begin to reopen and bring kids back into the classroom, especially in our most vulnerable communities."

"These additional resources will help us target funding to support schools and colleges recover from effects of the pandemic," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Our administration looks forward to our continued collaboration with school officials statewide on how to best support the safe return to classrooms this fall."

"Besides supporting financial stability and continuity of service in both K-12 and higher education, this plan will give more students access to high-quality online learning opportunities," said Education Secretary James Peyser.

"We know districts will need more funding this year than in a typical school year, and I am pleased to see this money added to the financial support that is already on its way to districts," said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley.

"At a time of great uncertainty for those of us in higher education, this investment in our public colleges and universities and most especially, in our underserved students, will help ease the financial burdens associated with COVID-19 and lay the groundwork for a productive fall semester," said Carlos E. Santiago, Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education.

Funding announced today builds on the nearly $1 billion previously allocated to schools, childcare programs, colleges, and universities.

· In June, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the allocation of approximately $200 million from the Commonwealth's federal Coronavirus Relief Fund for costs related to reopening public schools.

• Other funding sources to support school reopening include:

• $500 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund previously allocated to cities and towns.

• $194 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grants.

• $45 million to support the reopening of childcare programs serving low-income children.

• $19 million for special education residential schools.

• $25 million in federal funds for a matching grant program to help school districts and charter schools close technology gaps that inhibit remote learning.

Library offers a lot through curbside pickup

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Public Library remains closed to the public and the staff miss their patrons very much. Library staff are here in the building five days a week: Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are offering curbside pickup for all library items. Patrons may place holds online through the catalog, by calling the library or filling out one of the library's reader advisory request forms. Staff members are happy to recommend books, movies and other items. The librarians check them out to patrons, who make an appointment to drive up to the library's curbside parking lot tent and staff members will put the items in patrons' cars.

Go to https://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/curbside-pickup for all the details.

The library's official Summer Reading program ended July 31, but it still have lots of great online content to share. Visit the Kids Room page on the website for links to videos, digital escape room stories, online program info, downloadable puzzle pages and more.

https://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/kids (for general Kids Room Things)

https://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/kids/kids-room-online (For Online Content)

There is also a weekly online storytime on Zoom on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Email me to sign up!

There is also an online summer concert series going on now in partnership with Chicopee TV and the Parks and Recreation Department. Go to the library's website for additional details.

The library has craft kits for kids and families available via curbside pickup. Give the library a call for more details as to which projects are available at 413-594-1800, ext. 4.

As always, check the library website for updates to programs and services at https://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

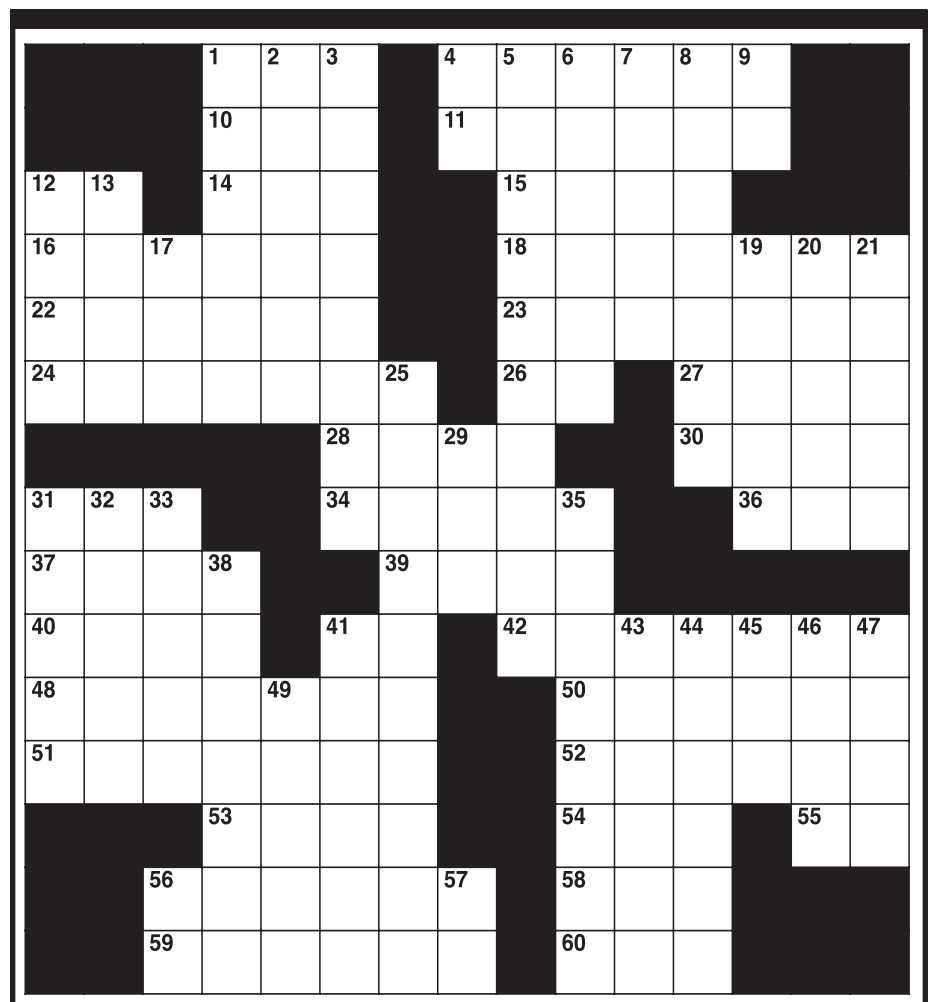
Vieau announces rental assistance program

CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau announced the release of the city's Rental Assistance Program designed to assist property-owners and renters who have been impacted by COVID-19. The City through the Community Development Department has allocated $250,000 from federal HOME Partnership funds. The federal funds require that the property owner be in good standing with the city, that the residential rental unit be in good condition, and the occupant be a low-income person who has had their income impacted by the pandemic. The program enrollment form for interested rental property owners is posted at http://chicopeema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10594/Emegency-Rental-Assistance- ProgramProperty-Owner-Applicatio.

"The pandemic has created a challenge for both landlords and tenants" stated Vieau. "We have property -owners who are anxious about the ability to pay their property expenses. We have renters without sufficient income to pay the rent owed. While the City does not have adequate resources to completely resolve this problem, our program should provide some relief."

Property owners must enroll in the program after which eligible tenants may apply for up to two months of rental payments. Payments will be made directly to the property owner.

Due to the complexity of federal regulations, the city recognizes that not all properties or tenants will be eligible. The Valley Opportunity Council is providing additional assistance directly to impacted residents. Interested renters may call VOC directly at 413-534-2466.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Opposite of on
4. Creator
10. No seats available
11. About springtime
12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
14. Automobile
15. A matchup
16. Porous volcanic rock
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Not written in any key
23. Revolved
24. Archrival
26. Within
27. Smoker's accessory
28. Disfigure
30. Primordial matter
31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
34. Kisses
36. Some is iced
37. A way to derive
39. Unaccompanied by others
40. Discontinued Google app
41. Tony B. left his heart there
42. Condiment
48. Ancient Italian city
50. One who distributes payoff money
51. Guarantees
52. Highly decorative
53. Strike with a stick
54. Pie _ __ mode
55. Spanish be
56. Glued
58. A way to drench
59. Part of the body
60. Changes the color

CLUES DOWN
1. Passerine birds
2. Noisy quarrel
3. The front arm or leg of an animal
4. Early multimedia
5. Golden years
6. Large mollusk
7. Small arm of the sea
8. Persian jurisdiction
9. Atomic #81
12. From end to end
13. Adorable
17. Ma
19. Nearly falling
20. Portable conical tent
21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
25. Fish with high dorsal fins
29. Equal (prefix)
31. Aquatic plant genus
32. Choppers
33. Hand parts
35. Region bordering the sea
38. Well-liked
41. Nap
43. It's used to make beer
44. Related on the father's side
45. Senior officer
46. Delicacy (archaic)
47. Figures
49. A way to take away
56. Beloved sandwich __&J
57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 13

OFF THE BEAT AND TRAIL

Hopping off the beat

Tyler Witkop

Goodbye. Adios. Talk to you later. How does one appropriately say farewell? To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure. In reading these words, however, you're probably reaching the unexpected conclusion that I'm leaving the beat. Yes, you read that correctly. As of July 31, I stepped down as editor of The Wilbraham-Hampden Times and Chicopee Register. In fact, just typing these words is one of the hardest tasks I've personally ever done. The hardest has been interviewing people, note-taking and reporting as though nothing has changed. In reality, the world as I knew it changed completely.

Professionally, being the hometown journalist is all I've ever known and for a long time, all I ever cared to know. Thanks to the mentorship of Charlie Bennett, who took me under his wing as a college senior intern in the fall of 2008, I had the ability to intimately know my home community. When he retired in 2014 and I was hired as the staff writer, then named editor in April 2015, it was a dream come true. A dream that a younger me didn't know I had.

As I look back on the nearly 12 years of hometown reporting, it has been one wild experience. I've met some really amazing and remarkable people, like Tuskegee Airman James Sowell, Peg Stearns and her impeccable memory, Vietnam veteran Bob Kelliher, and so many others. I had the pleasure of covering important events like school and police station groundbreakings, town meetings and Minnechaug's graduation ceremonies. And when I was assigned to Chicopee, being able to witness the change of command at Westover was and still is an honor I will never forget.

It's never ceased to amaze me what's crossed my desk as a reporter and editor. A full tearsheet of unsigned corrections, an arrangement of flowers, a remarkable news tip or even a thank you card. What's been most meaningful of all is the level of trust you placed in me with your stories – even those that cannot be told. Nothing meant more to me than hearing back that the story met or exceeded expectations. And I did that because I am, as the paper says, "Dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve."

But something was missing. For a long time, I was unable to pinpoint what. In my dedication to communicating the stories of a community, I was ignoring myself and my own wellbeing. I was, in some ways, working to put smiles on the faces of others instead of my own. And as a bachelor whose awards are largely in the form of diplomas, the pa-

See BEAT page 7

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: The Chicopee Register,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

GUEST COLUMN

Help revitalize our democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

Amid all the troubles occupying our attention, one of the more worrisome is also one of the least visible. It is the loss of public faith in the effectiveness of our representative democracy.

While most state and local governments, and certain federal agencies, have maintained public support during the pandemic, concern over our system as a whole is palpable: that it has trouble responding to the country's needs, is resistant to reform as society evolves, and continues to perpetuate inequality, social immobility, and basic unfairness when it comes to creating more opportunity, liberty and justice for all.

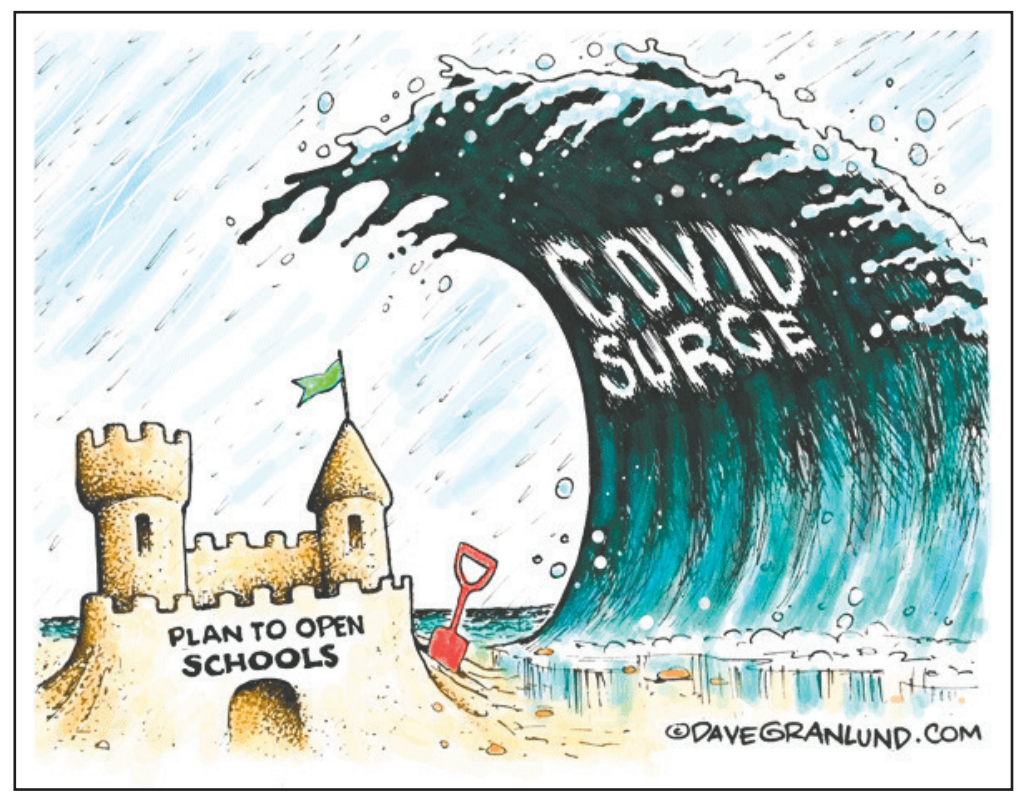
These deficiencies corrode our unity and effectiveness as a nation. Americans increasingly divide themselves into different, often warring, political and cultural camps. Instead of working to create one out of many, they sort themselves into like-minded communities. They narrow, rather than expand, their sources of news and information, seeking those that reinforce their views. These days, we often live in different worlds from one another.

Politicians have played a significant role in this. Some are bent on stoking division. Many play to their parties' bases. And some, at both the state and federal level, do their best to narrow the public support on which government rests by making it difficult for everyone who's entitled to vote to cast an actual ballot.

To be sure, there are plenty of efforts in many communities to work against these trends, to expand participation and build connections, and to decrease division. Still, the challenge we face as a nation is to revitalize our democracy and its institutions. We need to strengthen representative democracy by restoring the effectiveness of government, rebuild Congress as a functional, co-equal branch of the federal government, and restore confidence in our institutions, public and private.

How do we do this? Calls for greater public participation and involvement are on target, but not enough. While I'm always encouraged by political leaders who seek to involve the public and by civic groups that try to enhance and encourage citizen participation, I believe we're at the point where we need to repair our frayed institutions and push back against the forces that divide us.

See DEMOCRACY page 7



GUEST COLUMN

Can I get a widow's benefit if I'm on disability?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I was recently approved for my Social Security disability benefits. Will I still be able to get my widow's benefits when I turn 60, which is right around the corner? Or do I lose those because I am disabled? Signed: An Uncertain Widow

Dear Uncertain Widow: You will not lose your survivor (widow's) benefits because you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. You can get the survivor benefit if it is more than your SSDI benefit and provided that you did not remarry before age 60 (and remain married). If you are entitled to and claim a survivor benefit while on SSDI, it will come as a separate supplemental payment which, along with your SSDI benefit, equals the amount you are due as a widow.

If you are now on SSDI you can actually take your survivor benefit before age 60 because survivor benefits can be taken as early as age 50 if you are disabled. But claimed at age 60 or earlier, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you wait until your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 to claim it. If you are collecting both SSDI and the survivor supplement when you reach your full retirement age, it will automatically convert to one payment equal to what you're entitled to as a survivor (SSDI benefits stop at full retirement age).

It would be prudent for you to evaluate whether you should continue with your SSDI benefits only for a while and allow your survivor benefit to grow to a higher amount. At age 67, your survivor benefit as a widow will be 100% of the amount your deceased husband was receiving, or entitled to receive, at his death. But claiming it before your full retirement age will mean it will be cut by 4.75%

See BENEFIT page 7

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register

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BEAT from page 6

pers were – are – my major accomplishments. My babies. So, after five years as editor and more as a reporter, I have come to the point where I'm looking not to write the stories of others' lives, but to live my own, and maybe let someone else write it down. Folks will still see me around town. I'm not moving. I'm just hitting the "reset" button, so-to-speak.

I don't know exactly what the future has in store – if any of you do, stop holding out and share your crystal ball with the rest of us – but I do have an opportunity to learn a new career with one of my family members. So, with nothing really tying me down, I am throwing myself into the stream of life to explore a new opportunity and grow in new ways. And I've found the idea extremely exciting. Don't let me fool you, it's also frightening, but fear and excitement stem from the same emotion. I liken it to staring down a steep mountain chute in low light, when tension starts welling in the gut. Should I or shouldn't I? Do or do not. There's only one way down. Sure it's scary and you can't tell snow from sky or rock, but you trust yourself and let the skis do their thing – and it's awesome.

Thank you all for your trust, for your criticisms and friendships. Most of all, thank you for the beautiful memories. This has been one fun adventure and I'm glad we could share it together. Happy trails everyone!

DEMOCRACY from page 6

We are, after all, the United States. Our name expresses an ideal. So, for that matter, does the course of our history, which over time has trended toward expanding inclusivity and opportunity for all. One place to start is to appreciate our history and take inspiration from that history: to recognize where we've fallen short, but also to highlight the remarkable progress we've made and the efforts of committed citizens that made it possible.

We also need to recognize that divisiveness weakens us, and that efforts to reknit American society are now urgently important.

To that end, proposals for a year of national service strike me as particularly welcome. This would be expensive but focusing young Americans on a year of shared endeavor with others from vastly different backgrounds, in the military, in AmeriCorps, in internships or public-service opportunities, would help meet many needs and be well worth the expense.

We also need to up our game as ordinary citizens and beat back the drivers of divisiveness and polarization as we work to strengthen our communities.

Among other things, this means making an effort to seek out alternative points of view in the media and paying attention to objective, factual reporting. It means supporting measures that bring us together, such as bringing young people from all backgrounds and perspectives to work side by side in projects for the public good. And it means being thoughtful about our engagement: voting for candidates focused on pulling us together and working for the common good and putting our time and effort into causes that bring us together rather than pull us apart.

In short, we must decide what we can do in the voting booth and in our own neighborhoods and communities to revitalize our representative democracy. Our aim is to make our communities and our country better places to live: more creative, inclusive, and welcoming.

The answer lies not in the stars, but with all of us.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

BENEFIT from page 6

for each year earlier than your FRA that you claim it. You can find out your full survivor benefit amount by contacting Social Security.

Your survivor benefit will reach maximum at your full retirement age, and it does not expire so you can delay up to age 67 to claim if you wish (to get the maximum amount as a widow). But if your financial situation is such that you need the reduced survivor benefit earlier, and your benefit as a widow is more than your SSDI benefit, you can claim it at any time. Survivor benefits must be applied for directly with the Social Security Administration, which you can reach by phone at 1.800.772.1213, or at your local office (find the phone number for your local office at www.ssa.gov/locator). Note that all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to in-person visits by the public, so telephone is your only current option to apply for your survivor benefit, until after the pandemic closure is lifted.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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CHRISTMAS from page 1

experience was refreshing for the city's first-term mayor.

"The reason I'm here today isn't simply to pass out candy canes; it's to say, 'How are you?' That's the first question that I asked every car. I want to know if there's something these people need," said Vieau, adding that there were a lot of positive thumbs up from just about every single car

As the pandemic lingers, the COA is continuing to enhance its virtual programming. From educational sessions to fitness classes and craft times, seniors can partake in variety of activities via Zoom, and Conroy is available as technologic support.

"I know that seniors may not always want to use the technology, but as soon as they get onto it they realize how easy it is to use, and they're more apt to participate," said Conroy. "We do have the tablets that we were able to loan out to people if they don't have access to a computer at their home. We're able to walk through how to do it, and if they have questions about Zoom they can call us, but we're trying to get as much [programming] on Zoom as we can and get more participation."

The COA will likely rely on its virtual platforms for several more months if not longer. Manyak made it clear that the building will not be reopening to the public any time soon.

"Right now, it doesn't make sense," she said. "The numbers are just not where anyone feels comfortable. We're going to look at how schools open and how that goes before we even think about opening up the center."

On a side note, the Grinch apparently visited last Wednesday's "Christmas in July." Just prior to the event, the COA's large-scale Santa decoration was stolen from the upper driveway entrance of the RiverMills Center.

"We are kindly asking that whoever took it please return it to the main entrance at the back of our building," said Conroy.

Mayor John Vieau greets a senior during the Council on Aging's "Christmas in July" meal distribution on July 29.
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Dressed for the occasion, COA Program Tech Jonael Ruiz delivers a meal to a senior during the COA's "Christmas in July" program last Wednesday.

Surrounded by festive decorations, COA Program Tech Jonael Ruiz waves to the camera during "Christmas in July" outside the senior center on July 29.

While the snowman waved to seniors, someone stole a similarly sized Santa decoration from the COA during the "Christmas in July" event last week.

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USDA INSP TURKEY BREAST..... $3.99

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL $2.92 lb
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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIPLOIN STEAKS.. $6.77 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST..... 10 LB BAG $1.22 lb
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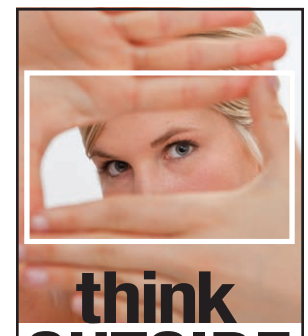


WRESTLING

TMC votes to keep wrestling sectional tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the region is in for more delays of high school sports action, the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee is continuing its work to prepare for the 2021 fall season under what will be new tournament formats and divisional alignments.

In late February, a majority of the member schools in Massachusetts voted in favor of eliminating the sectional tournament and switching to a statewide tournament that would include 32 teams as well as the possibility of playing to qualify if a school finishes with a record of .500 or above.

The move was very unpopular with many Western Massachusetts schools because of the vast diversity in the area, hence the use of the Walker Rating system that has been used to determine tournament seeds in many team sports such as soccer, basketball, field hockey, hockey, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. Central Mass. has also used to the system in some tournaments.

The ranking system was supposed to switch over MaxPreps for this fall and would have been used to rank the final Western Mass. tournaments. MaxPreps has a proprietary ranking system not revealed publicly, but the MIAA has opted to delay its use for now.

Alignments for the new statewide tournaments were held at a TMC meeting on July 28.

Wrestling will be one sport that will get to keep its sectional tournament sanctioned by the MIAA. FILE PHOTOS

However, now, it is unclear whether a fall season or a tournament will take place in the final year to have sectional tournaments through the MIAA.

The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association has discussed holding its own sectionals once the state switches over, but the COVID-19 pandemic has caused planning for that to be put on "the back burner" according to PVIAC Board member David Stratton, athletic director at Agawam High School.

The PVIAC and other governing boards are looking at the current situation and working on just getting players back on fields safely and following proper safety protocols while the pandemic still exists.

Meanwhile, the TMC began the process of approving some alignments. The first, which was approved at a meeting last Tuesday, was the alignments for wrestling.

Wrestling has always been an individual sport with teams scoring points at the major meets. By a 10-2-1 vote, the TMC approved continuing with a sectional tournament as a means of qualifying for the state tournament. Wrestling will not be using a statewide tournament format initially and will remain with a sectional tournament in order for an individual grappler to get to the state tournament. The current format includes having a sectional, followed by a divisional state tournament, an all-state tournament, and then a New England Tournament.

A number of football committee members proposed new alignments for their sport. Their initial proposal was defeated 4-8-2 and will be revisited at another time.

The board also discussed how football would be handled with the delay in sports to Sept. 14. It would wipe out the first four weeks of football season. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting, set for Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. The meeting with be virtual.

RACING

Chris Buffone tops in street stock event

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Open-wheel ace Brian Robie (Sunapee, NH) won the NHSTRA Modified main event Saturday, August 1, at Monadnock Speedway, while second-generation star D.J. Shaw topped the Granite State Pro Stock Series 100-lapper.

Chris Buffone (Belchertown, MA) scored his first Street Stock victory Saturday, and Superman Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) stayed undefeated on the year by winning his seventh consecutive Late Model Sportsman feature race. Ed Gilman topped the night's Classic Lites 30-lapper.

Todd Patnode and Kimmy Rivet led the Mod Squad to the stripe as the night's 40-lap feature went green. Patnode, the speedway's reigning Modified champion, was gunning to turn a nightmare 2020 campaign around as the pandemic-shortened season hit its halfway mark.

With Patnode jumping all over the opening lead, Rivet and Cameron Houle, and then Keith Carzello, battled fast and furious for the deuce spot while, charging hard from his row six starting slot, points leader and two-time winner Brian Robie was on the hunt.

Rocketing up to fourth on lap 18, Robie took third from Rivet on lap 22, second from Houle two go-rounds later, and pulled up to Patnode's bumper on lap 30. Taking the lead on his 32nd trip around the high banks, Robie then sped off to victory a half-dozen lengths ahead of Patnode.

Houle earned his first trophy finish of the summer in third, a whisker ahead of three-time winner Ben Byrne. Matt Kimball took the checkers in fifth. Byrne and Trevor Bleau, second and third in the points race, both lost valuable ground

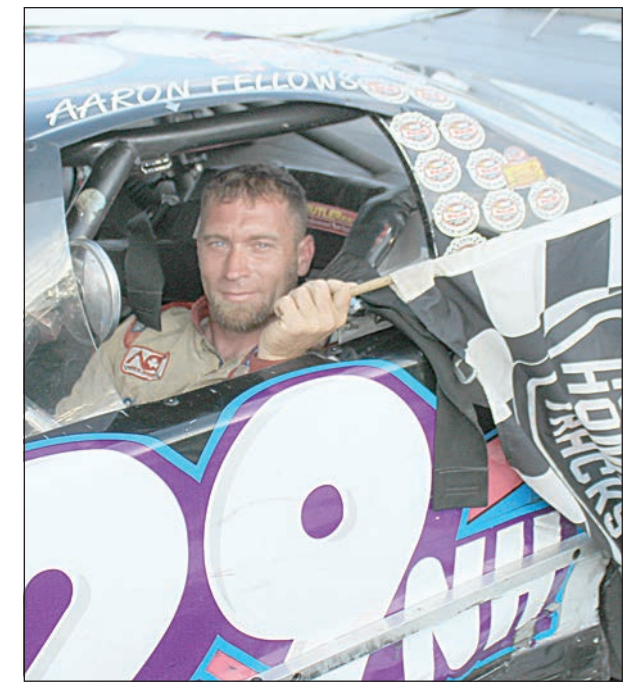
See STOCK page 10

Slzats scholarships awarded

Gabrielle Gauvin of Ludlow and Davianna Perez of Chicopee take the ceremonial opening tip-off from Roy LaPlante, organizer of the Szlats Memorial Tournament held in Chicopee each year. It has brought youth girls basketball teams from all over the area together for 26 years. It was one of the last sporting events held before the pandemic started and action was cut off after just one day. LaPlante said he hopes to have the tournament next year, but it will not be rescheduled this year. While money was refunded back to team because there was only a day of action, several teams donated their funds back to Szlats for the scholarships, which went to Averie Gatzounas, Julianna Beaulieu, Caroline Pycko, and Kass Guerrero, all Chicopee students. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Chris Buffone, a resident of Belchertown, wins the Street Stock event last weekend.

Brian Robie topped the field in the modified race.



Aaron Fellow won another late model race. *SUBMITTED PHOTOS*

Stock from page 9

to Robie in the division's seventh event of the season.

In the GSPSS 100-lapper, second-generation Maine star D.J. Shaw pulled alongside fast-timer Devin O'Connell on lap 14, took sole possession of the top spot two laps later, and then never looked back as he easily scored his first series win of the summer.

Two-time 2020 series winner Angelo Belsito was second, with fellow two-time and current points leader Ray Christian III third. O'Connell finished his hard night's work in fourth, while number two points man Joey Polewarczyk fell off the pace on lap 98 while running fourth.

In the Late Model Sportsman 25-lapper it was, who else, Aaron Fellows again, winning for the seventh straight week to stay undefeated this summer with a dozen overall wins against zero losses.

For the second week in a row, Cole Littlewood was the deuce man, watching Fellows inch past him as lap 21 went in the books and then speed away. Number two point man Robert Hagar came home third, just ahead of teen speedster Camdyn Curtis.

Street Stock points leader Jaret Curtis spun in a cloud of tire smoke before lap one of the Streeter's feature race had been completed, having to refire from 15th as his 25-lap journey began again.

Rookie Tim Wenzel led the first two go-rounds, with Belchertown Bullet Chris Buffone then taking over. While Buffone would lead the rest of the way to score his first Street Stock victory, the racing throughout the pack was action-packed and turbulent most of the way.

Chase Curtis claimed second early and tried high and low to find a way to the point while, riding at Curtis's bumper and sometimes against it, Buffone's uncle, Tommy O'Sullivan, completed the nose-to-tail top three.

Jaret Curtis got up for fourth with one to go to stay just ahead of his twin brother in the points parade, while Wenzel's strong run netted him the five spot. Buffone was the sixth different Street Stock feature winner this summer at the high-banked speedplant.

Ed Gilman wired the 30-lap Classic Lites feature, but while the Sandown, N.H. pilot had a fairly easy ride, the action behind him was fast and furious. Eric Skofield grabbed second on lap 13 and then chased Gilman the rest of the way, while four-time defending series champ Duane Skofield made a late-race charge to earn the third-place hardware.

Next Saturday, August 8, Monadnock Speedway returns to action with five exciting divisions of weekly racing series action, along with the visiting Granite State Legends and Pro-4 Modified series. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

STREET STOCKS: Chris Buffone, Chase Curtis, Tommy O'Sullivan, Jaret Curtis, Tim Wenzel, Mike Hopkins, Hillary Renaud, Robbie Streeter, Jason Kozacka Kenny Thompson, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard, Chris Riendeau, Nathan Wenzel, Ed Brehio

LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN: Aaron Fellows, Cole Littlewood, Robert Hagar, Camdyn Curtis, Justin Littlewood, Hayden Scott, Willie Kuhn, Scott Beck, Nancy Muni-Ruot

NHSTRA MODIFIEDS: Brian Robie, Todd Patnode, Cameron Houle, Ben Byrne, Matt Kimball, Keith Carzello, Trevor Bleau, Cory Plummer, Kim Rivet, Kevin Pittsinger, Solomon Brow, Zach Leone, Jerry Gomarlo, Eric Leclair, Russ Hersey, Brian Chapin

LES CAIN
EDDIE SMITH
FRANK WARD
LES BERRY
JIMMY MORAN
BILLY STON
BOB PEART
ALVIN WATSO
RINGSIDE & STAGE
"I'm social distancing, and I still get to hit the gym."
My community makes it possible.
At The Loomis Communities we're focused on creating a balance between safety, security, and well-being. With new protocols in place throughout our campuses, residents can make the most of each day even in the most trying times.
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Francoeur wins Ouimet tournament

FRAMINGHAM – Chris Francoeur, 21, of Amesbury Golf & Country Club, won the Championship Division by making birdie on the final two holes to finish 10-under 205 over three days. Francoeur, a rising senior at the University of Rhode Island, edged runner-up Nick Maccario, 28, of Bradford Country Club, by one stroke, but both shot a 5-under 66 on the final day. Frank Vana, Jr., 57, of Marlborough Country Club, won the Lowery (Senior) Division title by 10 strokes, shooting a three-day total of 6-under 209. It's his second Lowery title in three years, and his seventh Ouimet title overall (5 Championship Div. & 2 Lowery Div.). Anne Walsh, 18, of The Country Club, won the Women's Division for the first time with a three-day total of 3-under 212 to win by four strokes.

Raised COVID-19 concerns cancel Thompson practice

THOMPSON, Conn. – Due to mounting concerns over the health and economic effects of COVID-19, Econn Motorsports announced today they are not moving forward with the traditional Bud 150 which had been scheduled for August 19th at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. An open practice previously scheduled for August 5th has also been canceled. The recent outbreaks of COVID-19 cases associated with professional sporting events was chief among the reasons for the decision.

"We had initially thought that the virus would be of minimal concern by now, but the numbers are still very concerning", said Terry Eames of Econn Motorsports. "We remain committed to keeping oval track racing alive at Thompson and will continue to work with the Hoenig family about the possibility of events later in the year."

Organization promotes legalization of sports betting

CHICOPEE – Fair Play Massachusetts, an organization of dozens of bars and restaurants across the Commonwealth, has been advocating for over a year that those small, local businesses be able to offer sports betting to their patrons, www.fairplaymass.com. Fair Play states four specific advantages to allowing your neighborhood bar or restaurant to offer sports wagers: more revenue for the Commonwealth including our cities and towns, helping small businesses and their employees in the face of COVID, geographical fairness to MA citizens who would like to bet on sports and having a greater impact on the illegal black market. They are excited and fully support an amendment to allow them to safely and legally offer sports betting to their adult patrons.

State Representatives James O'Day and Brian Ashe have offered amendments (#365 and #496) to the Economic Development Bill that will allow for an additional category of sports betting licenses for companies that will partner directly with Massachusetts retailers to offer sports betting via self serve kiosks or other digital/mobile platforms. This will allow in-person wagering in places other than the 3 casinos/ race tracks in the current language. The amendments also increase the excise tax from 15% to 50% resulting in more money back to the Commonwealth.

Fair Play has always contended that only allowing in person wagering in very few places is unfair to citizens who do not live near the geographically spread out casinos and conversely unfair to the small businesses which are close to the casinos as they now would have another competitive advantage in addition to gaming and exemption from happy hour regulations.

"Why should MGM be able to allow sports betting at their bars yet I cannot? Customers coming to my place to watch the Sox, Pats, Bruins or Celtics are a big part of my business but if I can't offer a way for people to bet in person and MGM is; then I will lose even more customers to them. I already have lost Keno players who now go there to drink for free and sit in front of a slot machine. I couldn't offer free drinks if I wanted to. Why is a huge company from Vegas more important than small, local, neighborhood businesses like mine?" said Billy Stetson, owner of Rumbleseat Bar and Grill in Chicopee minutes away from MGM Springfield.

"These small, local businesses have been rocked by the pandemic and just non getting their feet back under them. Why not allow them to partner with a state licensed company to offer sports betting much like they do the lottery? Sports are a huge part of our culture and watching them at your favorite bar is as well; as the major sports leagues start to get out there and play this will help our local businesses and at the same time bring in more revenue for the state and at a higher rate.

Also why should a person from Worcester who wants to put $25 on the Pats have to drive an hour East or West to a casino to do so? Not everyone is comfortable betting through an app on their phone connected to their bank account. Also there are casual bettors that may be at a bar for a game and then decide to put a little bet on it to make it more interesting. Furthermore, NH and CT are poised to offer more options for in-person wagering on our borders.

It's really a no brainer; especially now in the face of COVID. We help out our small, local businesses and we allow more safe and legal access throughout the state, all while bringing in more much needed state revenue. I really don't see any reason to be against this." stated spokesperson Ryan McCollum.

State announces $20 million to support social services, small businesses

BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration announced $19.6 million for municipalities to address emergency needs in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This funding will support 181 communities in their work to provide vital services to low-income residents and small businesses affected by the recent outbreak.

Local governments and regional consortiums will fund social services, including homelessness prevention, food pantries and assistance, and job training for in-demand health care workers and technicians. Many communities will also make grants available for local small businesses with five or less employees. 36 lead awardees will organize within their respective municipality or region to deliver services.

The Department of Housing and Community Development made this $19.6 million award through the federally-funded Community Development Block Grant program. Congress allocated new emergency funding for the program through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the CARES Act, to address substantial needs in low and moderate-income communities affected by the pandemic. DHCD has received $46 million in special CDBG funds so far, and is distributing funding across municipalities and stakeholders to meet increased needs, with a focus on helping households maintain housing stability.

In June, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a $20 million Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance program, which is also funded in part through this federal allocation. This new fund will help more low-income households who have lost employment or income due to the pandemic maintain stable housing, and builds on DHCD's existing homelessness prevention program, RAFT. In March, Gov. Charlie Baker announced a $5 million infusion for the fund to address increased need.

DHCD has received more than $160 million in federal funding through the CARES Act, including more than $20 million that has been distributed to Community Action Agencies for anti-poverty work, and is preparing to allocate additional funding for shelter providers. DHCD continues to be in close contact with the stakeholder network, and is working with CHAPA and Mass Housing Partnership to track local emergency rental assistance programs and other resources available to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This month, the Baker-Polito Administration unveiled a COVID-19 economic recovery package to respond to challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The $275 million package, designed to promote equity across the Commonwealth, includes $85 million for housing efforts, including investments in neighborhood stabilization and sustainable, climate resilient affordable housing, as well as $50 million in targeted relief for small and minority-owned businesses.

POLICE from page 1

supplies and during bad weather, we were trying to get them into the shelters," he said. "We also try to be there for people in the Center who need help with substance abuse; either alcohol or drugs. We try to provide them with the resources they need to get help."

The C3 Unit in Chicopee Center embodies the concept of community policing, a method of law enforcement that prioritizes communication and the use of problem-solving techniques rather than the traditional use of force. While the unit can respond to emergencies, its members will not be sent on a call.

"Our C3 officers are not call driven; we are not dispatched to calls," said Gazda. "By not being call driven, we have that time to actually talk to people; to find out the facts. We have the ability to go above and beyond what a normal patrol officer might be doing."

While the unit is still in its early days, it has already formed a number of community partnerships with organizations and establishments such as Commonwealth Care Alliance, Chicopee Electric Light Department, Family Dollar and a local neighborhood watch.

Gazda described the unit's recent collaboration with "Making Massachusetts Fishing Spots Great Again," a western Massachusetts nonprofit whose goal is to do just that. The unit joined the non-profit to clean up the banks of the Chicopee River Reservoir.

"It was one of those areas where no one ever walked down because of what a mess it was. Now, you see people down there with their kids every day. That was one of the great things we contributed to down here; getting that all cleaned up," said Gazda.

Going forward, the unit has its eyes set on enhancing Chicopee Center in loose conjunction with the MassDevelopment Transformative Development Initiative, a grant program that is actively facilitating the revitalization of the city's center.

In addition to Gazda, the unit consists of Officer John Slachetka and Officer Keith Hevey, who were both hand-selected by Gazda for their outgoing personalities and communication skills. Their work in Chicopee Center is just beginning, but Gazda is confident that a large-scale impact will be made.

"It's eight hours a day and five days a week so we kind of feel like we live in the neighborhood now. We want to build trust with the residents, build trust with the business owners and become a part of the community," he said.

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First American Insurance Agency acquires Morin & Foy firm

First American Insurance Agency, an independent insurance firm in Chicopee, recently announced it is has acquired Morin & Foy, a property and casualty firm located in Brimfield.

Morin & Foy serves its surrounding communities by providing clients with personal and commercial insurance. The joining of the two companies allows for the growth of First American Insurance Agency's portfolio and building the business client groups.

"When I first met Sharon and the team in Brimfield, it was clear from our very first conversation that First American Insurance Agency could build on what we both have in common: the client-first mentality," said Corey Murphy, president of First American Insurance.

First American Insurance Agency is only acquiring the Brimfield, MA location.

First American Insurance Agency has been serving the Western Massachusetts community for more than 30 years, specializing in personal, business, and group insurance. For more information visit www.faiagency.com.

State reminds residents to wear masks to help stop spread of COVID-19

BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration today launched #MaskUpMA, an effort to continue to remind residents to wear masks and face-coverings in public to stop the spread of COVID-19. The effort will underscore the importance of wearing masks across multiple channels including video testimonials on social media, a new PSA, and a website, Mass.Gov/MaskUp.

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito helped launch #MaskUpMA with video testimonials where they urge residents to wear masks to protect themselves and others. Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster also joined the effort today,and in the coming weeks, additional local public figures will remind everyone in Massachusetts to "mask up."

In addition, the Department of Public Health today also launched an updated public service announcement video, which is available here. Residents can also visit Mass.Gov/MaskUp to learn more about wearing face-coverings, including best practices and multilingual resources.

In May, Governor Baker issued an order requiring residents to wear face-coverings in public where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. Read the full DPH guidance and find more detailed information in frequently asked questions - face covering.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-67 & 275-67 (K)(3)(b) for the purpose of the construction of a proposed multi-family development and waiver of parking requirement from 88 to 75 spaces located at 0 Oak Street (Parcel ID 147-5H). Applicant – Craig Authier, 1421 Granby Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the August 26, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by August 24, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
08/06, 08/13/20

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Residence A to Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay District for 1.28 acres of property located at 10 Southwick St. for the purpose of redeveloping a currently vacant former schoolhouse into a multi-family residence. Applicant – Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Stephen C. Huntley, Executive Director, 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013.
The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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08/06, 08/13/20

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Special Permit under 275-52 (B) (13) for the purpose of an animal kennel for 4 pets, 2 Shih Tzus, 1 Lhasa Apso, 1 Bichon Frise/Shih Tzu mix located at 14 Pajak St. Applicant – Linda Payne, 14 Pajak St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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08/06, 08/13/20

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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Special Permit application under 275-58 (C) (4) for the purpose of an eating and drinking place with the consumption of alcohol located at 703 Grattan St. Applicant – Ahmet Ibic, 151 Pomeroy St., South Hadley, MA 01073.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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08/06, 08/13/20

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20C0110CA
In the matter of:
Alex McElwain Caouette
Of: Chicopee, MA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Alex McElwain Caouette** of **Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Alexander Paul McElwain**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/27/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, **Hon. Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 23, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
08/06/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Ordinance Amendment - Chapter 275-40; Replace 275-40(D) "Residential Use Parking Restrictions" with new language and add definitions; full text available in the Office of the City Council. Applicant: Councilor William Courchesne (Ward 7), City Council Office, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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08/06, 08/13/20

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1212EA
Estate of:
Curtis L. Gendreau
Date of Death: 07/10/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cherylee D Hagge** of Southport, NC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Cherylee D Hagge** of Southport, NC be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/24/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 27, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
08/06/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0123CA
In the matter of:
Melissa Collette Griffith-Joe
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Melissa Collette Griffith-Joe of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Melissa Collette Griffith
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/03/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
8/06/2020

American International College names new trustees

SPRINGFIELD – American International College recently welcomed two members to the Board of Trustees, E. Thomas Foster and Denise R. Jordan.

Foster is the managing director of The Retirement Advisor University Speakers Bureau. A 1970 graduate of AIC, Foster also attended Suffolk University Law School. In a career spanning more than 30 years, he is well-regarded as an industry expert, educating and advising individuals and businesses on the retirement marketplace, including products, legislation, regulation, and compliance.

Most recently, Foster served as the spokesperson for MassMutual Retirement Services, working directly with financial advisers and employers to educate about 401(k) and other qualified retirement savings plans.

Jordan was born and raised in the city of Springfield. She attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where she received a bachelor of science in political

Jordan worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in a variety of roles for more than 20 years. In 2008, she became the city of Springfield's first Black chief of staff, a position she held for more than a decade in the Office of Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. Jordan currently serves as the executive director of the Springfield Housing Authority, the third largest public housing authority in the state.

Renowned legal scholar, advocate joins WNEU law faculty

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University School of Law Dean Sudha Setty recently announced the appointment of nationally renowned legal scholar and advocate Jennifer Taub to the School of Law faculty.

An authority on the 2008 mortgage meltdown and related financial crisis, Taub's research and writing centers on "follow the money" matters – promoting transparency and opposing corruption. Her new book, "Big Dirty Money: The Shocking Injustice and Unseen Cost of White Collar Crime" (Viking) will be published Sept. 29. Taub was a co-founder and organizer of the April 15, 2017 Tax March where more than 120,000 people gathered in cities nationwide to demand President Donald Trump release his tax returns.

She will join the School of Law faculty in August, teaching white collar crime, civil procedure, and other commercial and business law subjects.

Prior to joining academia, Taub was an associate general counsel with Fidelity Investments. She received her bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Yale University, with distinction in the English major, and her juris doctorate, cum laude, from Harvard Law School, where she was the recent developments editor at the Harvard Women's Law Journal.

"We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Taub to the WNE School of Law community," Setty said. "Her ground breaking scholarship on economic justice and good government, her dedication to the craft of teaching, and her commitment to serving the community are some of the tremendous attributes that she brings to the School of Law."

WNEU, Commonwealth Coast Conference suspend fall athletic competition

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University has made the decision to suspend all intercollegiate competition for the fall semester. This decision is consistent with the recent Commonwealth Coast Conference Board of Directors' announcement postponing all conference competition until after Jan. 1, 2021. The conference intends to host competitive seasons for all league-sponsored sports in the spring semester, including those that traditionally scheduled in the fall, pending NCAA guidelines.

"The move to suspend competition this fall was diligently discussed and researched by the CCC presidents with information and guidance from athletic directors, conference officials, and medical personnel," said Western New England University Athletics Director Matt LaBranche.

"The situation has been constantly evolving since March and we had sincerely hoped to be able to move forward with our fall sports season. However, the perceived risks, consequences, and realities associated with outside competition proved too great given the continued presence of COVID-19 and each of our schools' firm commitment to the health and safety of our students," LaBranche added.

Although intercollegiate competition has been suspended for the fall, all varsity athletes will engage in organized athletic activities with their teams and under the direction of their head coach. These activities will be sport specific and will include but are not limited to training, skill development, and strength and conditioning. Allowable activities will be based on the framework set out by the NCAA's Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport and guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and state and local governments.

In response to COVID-19 the NCAA has previously passed a number of legislative items in order to mitigate the negative effects on student-athlete eligibility and participation. With additional legislation still in progress, the Western New England University Department of Athletics will continue to provide important updates in a timely manner.

Western New England fields 20 varsity teams, competing at the NCAA Division III level as a member of the Commonwealth Coast Conference. The move to suspend competition during the fall semester will affect the schedules of 15 teams.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1200GD
In the matter of:
Joanne M Hills
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Mercy Medical Center of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Joanne M Hills** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Sheryl Fappiano of Florence, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 a.m. on the return date of 08/28/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 24, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
08/06/20

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1229EA
Estate of:
Robert E Laferriere
Also known as:
Robert Eugene Laferriere
Date of Death: 01/01/2011
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Theresa Vieu of Chicopee MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Theresa Vieu of Chicopee MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

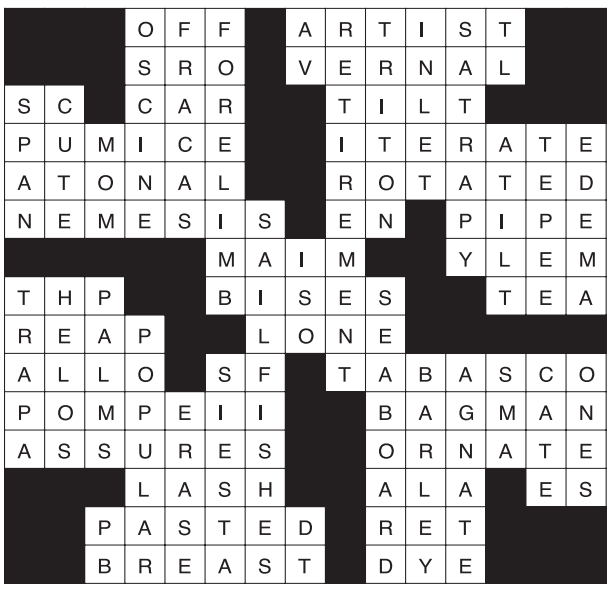
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/01/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 28, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
08/06/20



Chicopee Register

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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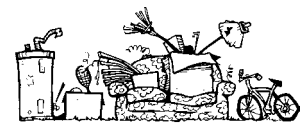

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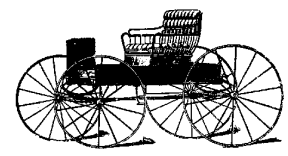

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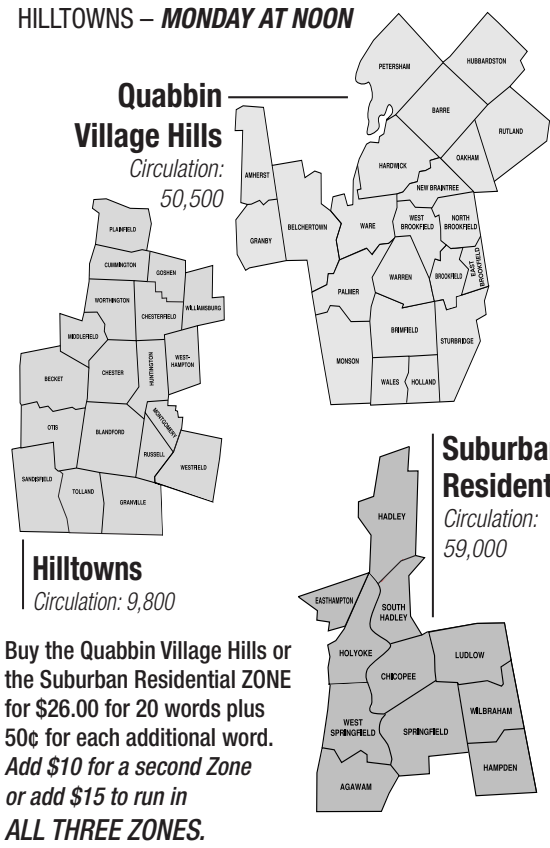
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



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Springfield College names 2020 graduates

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College recently announced its graduates who earned graduate and undergraduate degrees in 2020.

From Chicopee are Jonathan Wyss, Sara Jee Gilpatrick, Alicia Lacosse, David Goudreault, Brian Root, Amy Doyle, Lindsey Robins, Lori Albertowicz and Celia Moczo.

Springfield College created a Class of 2020 page where folks may submit messages to the class and where class members may submit short videos highlighting their college experiences.

Nicole Julian graduates from Adelphi University

GARDEN CITY, New York – Nicole Julian, of Chicopee, Massachusetts,, was among a group of 1,153 undergraduates recently awarded degrees at Adelphi University, including those who completed degree requirements in December 2019 and May 2020. Julian majored in nursing and earned a bachelor of science degree.

Julian's graduation honors include: Summa Cum Laude, School Honors, Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing Honorary), and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honorary).

The University's formal, in-person commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date when students and their families can gather and celebrate safely.

Founded in Brooklyn in 1896, Adelphi is Long Island's oldest private coeducational university. Today Adelphi serves nearly 8,000 students at its beautiful main campus in Garden City, New York-just 23 miles from New York City's cultural and internship opportunities-and at dynamic learning hubs in Manhattan, the Hudson Valley and Suffolk County, and online.

More than 116,000 Adelphi graduates have gained the skills to thrive professionally as active, caring citizens, making their mark on the University, their communities and the world.

Kodreanu honored by Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University recently announced the 2020 College of Arts & Sciences Senior Awards. Students receiving awards are selected for a significant contribution to the department.

Lyubov Kodreanu, of Chicopee, has been awarded the Excellence in Political Science Award, presented to the outstanding graduating senior in political science.

Local students receive bachelor's degrees from UMass Amherst

AMHERST – Approximately 6,600 students received bachelor's degrees in more than 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as the university held a virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 on May 8.

Below is a list of students Chicopee who earned a degree: Yarangelis Saned Altun, Isis Badone, Misty L. Bresette, Elaine R. Cote, Drew Stephen Degree, Nicholas Cristobal Garcia, Ninoshka Marie Hernandez, Morgan Hiersche, Stephanie Raquel Hinojosa, Monica L. Iglesias, Anna Kot, Bernice Akweley Anyeley Kwade, Karol Mateusz Liebersbach, Sylwia Ewa Madro, Raween S. Mendis, Edward Antonio Olmo, Vitaliy Popovichenko, Joseph Robert Recchia, Kimberlee Roy, Christian B. Salamon, Adrian F. Sanmiguel, Khizar Z. Shaikh, Kristiana Alyssa Tadeo, Nathan David Tellier and Heather Marguerite Thompson.

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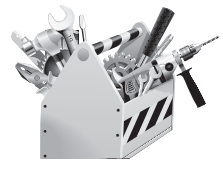

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